

SAN RAFAEL STATE ENERGY LAB

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Christine F. Watkins

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill creates the State Energy Lab and establishes the San Rafael Energy Research Center.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- establishes the San Rafael Energy Research Center;
- creates the State Energy Lab;
- establishes the membership and duties of the board;
- outlines the purpose and duties of the center; and
- establishes a project proposal solicitation and approval process.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2025:

▸ to Department of Natural Resources - Office of Energy Development - Office of Energy Development as a one-time appropriation:

- from the General Fund, One-time, \$2,000,000

▸ to Department of Natural Resources - Office of Energy Development - Office of Energy Development as an ongoing appropriation:

- from the General Fund, \$1,000,000

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

79-6-1001, Utah Code Annotated 1953

79-6-1002, Utah Code Annotated 1953

79-6-1003, Utah Code Annotated 1953

79-6-1004, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **79-6-1001** is enacted to read:

79-6-1001. Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) "Lab" means the State Energy Lab established in Section **79-6-1002**.

(2) "Center" means the San Rafael Energy Research Center established in Section **79-6-1003**.

(3) "Director" means the director appointed under Section **79-6-1004** to oversee the center.

(4) "Project proposal" means a formal written submission to the lab applying for approval and funding of a specific research initiative conducted at the center.

Section 2. Section **79-6-1002** is enacted to read:

79-6-1002. State Energy Lab.

(1) There is established in the office the State Energy Lab that is composed of the following nine members:

(a) the executive director of the office, or the director's designee, who shall serve as chair of the board;

(b) the president of the University of Utah or the president's designee;

(c) the president of Utah State University or the president's designee;

(d) the commissioner of higher education, as described in Section **53B-1-408**, or the commissioner's designee;

(e) two members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

(f) two members appointed by the president of the Senate; and

(g) one member appointed by the governor.

(2) The lab shall:

(a) foster innovation and support technological development in the energy sector by collaborating with industry leaders, researchers, entrepreneurs, investors, and other stakeholders;

(b) identify areas of economic growth and workforce development opportunities related to emerging energy technologies and solutions;

(c) seek potential investors and partners from the technology, finance, and business sectors to support innovative research and early-stage ventures focused on developing commercializable energy technologies in the state;

(d) identify and prioritize high-impact research projects for the center aligned to the state's energy policy goals and focused on developing commercially viable technologies; and

(e) develop evaluation criteria for project proposals received under Section [79-6-1004](#), including:

(i) alignment with state energy policy priorities;

(ii) commercialization potential;

(iii) economic impact; and

(iv) other relevant factors as determined by the board;

(f) recommend allocation of center resources and funding for project proposals;

(g) enter into financial contracts with entities seeking to use the center; and

(h) consult with relevant stakeholders for input on energy research priorities and potential collaborations.

Section 3. Section **79-6-1003** is enacted to read:

79-6-1003. San Rafael Energy Research Center established -- Center director.

(1) There is established in the lab the San Rafael Energy Research Center to facilitate innovative energy research and development projects.

(2) The purpose of the center is to:

(a) conduct innovative energy technology research and development projects that have significant commercialization potential and support the state's energy policy goals;

(b) assess the viability of emerging energy solutions for deployment within the state, considering:

(i) cost-effectiveness;

(ii) dispatchability;

(iii) sustainability;

(iv) reliability; and

(v) environmental impact;

(c) provide analysis and recommendations to policymakers regarding energy system planning, infrastructure needs, and the value of different energy initiatives being considered within the state; and

(d) collaborate with universities, industry partners, entrepreneurs, community representatives, and other research entities.

(3) The State Energy Lab shall appoint a full-time director to oversee the day-to-day operations of the center.

Section 4. Section **79-6-1004** is enacted to read:

79-6-1004. Project proposal solicitation and approval process.

(1) The lab shall have an open project proposal solicitation process to facilitate innovative energy research and development aligned with state energy policy conducted at the center.

(2) The lab shall receive and accept project proposals from:

(a) academics and research faculty from universities and research institutions in the state;

(b) private sector companies operating in the state, including technology entrepreneurs and small businesses;

(c) government agencies and national laboratories;

(d) nonprofit organizations and foundations engaged in energy research; and

(e) other qualified research teams.

(3) The lab shall evaluate project proposals received under Subsection (2) through a competitive process in order to select proposals for approval and funding.

(4) The lab may make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, establishing detailed project proposal evaluation criteria and selection procedures.

Section 5. **FY 2025 Appropriation.**

121 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
122 2024, and ending June 30, 2025. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
123 fiscal year 2025.

124 Subsection 5(a). **Operating and Capital Budgets.**

125 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the
126 Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts indicated for
127 the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

128 ITEM 1 To Department of Natural Resources - Office of Energy Development

129 From General Fund, One-time \$2,000,000

130 From General Fund \$1,000,000

131 Schedule of Programs:

132 Office of Energy Development \$3,000,000

133 Section 6. **Effective date.**

134 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.